

309 Yoakum Pkwy #601
Alexandria, VA 22304
December 25, 1989

Dear Mom & Dad,

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and, while I'm at it, Happy Birthday Dad! We are having an enjoyable low-key Christmas holiday. We opened your presents this morning and were very pleased to find the very appropriate sweaters. You shouldn't have done it but since you did I put my sweater on immediately. The cold air does seep in under the sliding glass door and makes it a bit chilly sitting at the computer. The temperature has not gotten above freezing for ten days. At this moment, 12:18 pm, I see it is 23 degrees with thickening clouds that may bring flurries later on. Friday morning it was 5 degrees with a strong north wind. Needless to say we skipped running Friday and Saturday. Yesterday it was about 12 degrees so we thought we would give it a try. Several layers of clothes kept the body warm but slathering vaseline on my face didn't help enough. The wind brought tears to my eyes and the moisture started stinging on my cheeks. We quit after 1 lap. It is supposed to warm up slowly during the week and may be relatively mild by Friday when we are taking the train to New York City. We have three art museums to visit, the Metropolitan Opera to attend, Vickie's birthday dinner to consume, and time to kill before the 3:45 am train back to Washington. It should be an adventure.

Saturday morning I drove down to the new Sutton Place Gourmet in Old Town to get the ingredients for Christmas dinner. It is a large store filled with an incredible variety of expensive foods. The best feature is the selection of fresh herbs which can't be found elsewhere. I bought the "butterflyed" leg of lamb and put it into a marinade of vinegar, olive oil, garlic, and fresh herbs for 24 hours. We will broil it and accompany it with potatoes and a vegetable gratin.

Well, I will probably tell you all this on the phone so I will move along to the next project.

Love,

Jim & Vickie

Christmas Day, 1989

Dear Helen & Elmer,

John & I are enjoying a happy day today: listening to Christmas music and staying warm indoors while looking out our picture windows on the last bits of snow on the frozen landscape! We're also thinking of you and wishing you a very merry day today.

We just opened our presents and were thrilled at the beautiful sweaters you sent us. Mine is so elegant and the colors are perfect for me. I just love it and want you to know how delighted I am to be remembered

so lovingly by such wonderful parents-in-law!

Our cat Siegfried had a great time ripping up the wrapping paper so he is as happy as Jim & I are.

Jim is fixing a delicious Christmas dinner and we've already had several other special meals - for our anniversary and last night on Christmas Eve. I know you are busy preparing a feast for today, too. Sure wish we could drop in!

Thank you again for the gorgeous sweater.

Love,
Vickie
